

KITSAP COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 15
Kitsap County, Washington
January 1, 1989 Through December 31, 1990

Schedule Of Findings

1. The District Should Only Expend Funds For Fire District Purposes

In 1990, the district paid \$1,500 to its fire fighters association to repair, improve, and update the lights and star on the Tracyton Community Christmas Tree.

RCW 52.02.020 allows fire districts to be formed:

. . . for the provision of fire prevention services, fire suppression services, emergency medical services, and for the protection of life and property

RCW 52.12.021 states in part:

Fire protection districts have full authority to . . . do any and all lawful acts required and expedient to carry out the purpose of this title.

This expenditure was not in support of the purpose of a fire district.

The district believed that it was giving back to the community, as the community had made donations to them.

We recommend the district only expend funds for fire district purposes.

2. The Commissioners Should Conduct Their Actions In Accordance With The Open Public Meetings Act

At the July 17, 1990, meeting of the district board of commissioners, an executive session was called. The minutes stated that the board discussed the resignation of the chairman of the board and possible effective dates. When the meeting was resumed, the chairman resigned and a replacement was selected by secret ballot.

RCW 42.30.060 states in part:

. . . (2) No governing body of a public agency at any meeting required to be open to the public shall vote by secret ballot. Any vote taken in violation of this subsection shall be null and void . . .

By voting in secret the district nullified the action taken.

The district commissioners did not know that secret ballots were not allowed.

We recommend the district commissioners comply with the Open Public Meetings Act.